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Genealogy Notes from Emily June 2016

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Genealogy Notes from Emily

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Websites to Remember

- MSL Genealogy – www.maine.gov/msl/services/genealogy/index.shtml
- Vital Records Researcher Card- www.maine.gov/dhhs/forms.shtml
- MSL Classes- www.maine.gov/msl/services/classes.shtml
- Maine Genealogical Society- www.maineroots.org
- Maine State Archives– www.maine.gov/sos/arc

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Augusta, ME 04333

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Fri: 9-5
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Website:
www.maine.gov/msl

Genealogy Reference Books at MSL

Happy Summer! So many of us just dive right into our genealogy research, and may forget that there are many reference books available to help. Here's just a sampling of what we have at the State Library. In the course of any family's history you'll undoubtedly run across medical terminology; do take a look at Dr. Jeanette L. Jerger's [A Medical Miscellany for Genealogists](#). It's a dictionary which covers general medical practices-including some Native American-along with diseases, conditions, and treatments "reflecting 19th century understanding". She even includes the magical and mythical! This can be located in our Genealogy Reference section, with the Call No.: 929 J55m 1995. Another title I enjoy using is [What Did They Mean by That? A Dictionary of Historical Terms for Genealogists](#) (revised edition), by Paul Drake, J.D. This is a small 2-volume item with abbreviations, expressions, legal vocabulary, medical terms,

occupations, foods, church records' terms, historical events, common words, all back to the 1700s. This is also in the Genealogy Reference section, with the Call No.: 929.103 D762w 1998. Yet another gem is the 3rd edition of [A to Zax-a Comprehensive Dictionary for Genealogists and Historians](#) by Barbara Jean Evans, Call No.: 929.103 E92a 1995. This title is definitely historical in nature, with archaic words and definitions, including Norman and Latin terms found in old documents; religious, colloquial, relational, monetary and ethnic categories are present as well. The reader will find a listing of rulers of England, along with an appendix of Dutch given names and English-Dutch first names. A second appendix provides nicknames. Very useful, indeed!...One of my favorites is [Time Traveller's Handbook-a Guide to the Past](#) by Althea Douglas. We have a second copy that does go out, so you may peruse this at home: Call No.: 929.1072 D733ti 2011. It's more a running narrative

than a dictionary, including tidbits of historical and social significance, mainly in the 18th through 20th centuries. Though written for Canadian genealogists, it is still a valuable resource for Americans, helping to put what was once the everyday into perspective. Examples of this include technology timelines, tips on reading documents, numerals, measurements, currency, methods of travel, trades and occupations, daily life in the past, health, and general history. When your genealogical research draws you to the British Isles, [The Oxford Companion to Local and Family History](#) should be at your side. We have the 1996 edition, but, there is a 2010 available. It covers social, urban, agricultural, ecclesiastical, legal and family-related terms; and some biographies and lengthier general articles. It's on our shelf at: 929 098 1996.

FamilySearch and DPLA to Partner!

Here's the latest buzz from our friends at FamilySearch: they have agreed to work with DPLA, which is the Digital Public Library of America, to place their free digital historical book collection online! According to a press release of June 22nd, this initiative will "make more than

200,000 family history books discoverable through DPLA's search portal later this year." This collection includes family histories, county and local histories, magazines, handbooks, gazetteers and pedigrees. Maine State Library is an affiliate of FamilySearch,

not a family history center which would be allowed to borrow LDS materials, so this is especially exciting for us. Please remember that we can facilitate your rental of microfilm, which you may use here and we return. Just visit the LDS site for more details: www.FamilySearch.org. Cheers!